

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OES-06 IO-13  
HEW-04 /093 W  
-----250415Z 031093 /63  
R 241140Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3338

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0399

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, SPOP, BG  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL ZIA ON FAMILY PLANNING  
AND FOOD

1. DURING OUR SUNDAY AFTERNOON (JANUARY 23) TOUR D'HORIZON, I  
TOLD CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR MAJOR GENERAL ZIA  
THAT I WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE STATE WHICH HAD  
BEEN MADE ON FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS BY THE BDG  
BUT THAT MY DISCUSSIONS IN DACCA AND TRAVELS IN THE  
COUNTRYSIDE CONVINCED ME THAT MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE  
ACTION WAS REQUIRED NOW IN THREE AREAS:

A. ADDITIONAL STEPS WERE NEEDED TO EXPEDITE  
GETTING THE PROPOSED 18,000 WORKERS INTO THE  
VILLAGES WHERE THE REAL PROBLEM LAY. ALSO BETTER USE  
SHOULD BE MADE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS IN THE RURAL  
AREAS. I NOTED THAT WE COULD GET EXTENSIVE FUNDS  
FOR COMMODITIES AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT SOUND BDG  
PROGRAMS. WE DID NOT ENVISAGE USING U.S. FUNDS TO  
BUILD VILLAGE FAMILY PLANNING CENTERS. BUT I UNDERSTAND  
THERE WERE UNUSED WORLD BANK RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT BE  
USED FOR THIS PURPOSE IF OUTSIDE HELP WERE REQUIRED.  
THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET THE WORKERS INTO THE  
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FIELDS SO OUTSIDE AID COULD BE APPLIED EFFECTIVELY.

B. SECONDLY, I SAID I WAS CONVINCED THAT ANOTHER  
PROBLEM WAS THE POOR LOGISTICAL SYSTEM TO GET COMMODI-  
TIES WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED. ZIA TURNED THIS BACK BY  
ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. HELP IN THIS AREA, BUT HE  
CLEARLY GOT THE POINT.

C. FINALLY, I SAID IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL, IN MOBIL-

IZING BANGLADESH'S OWN RESOURCES AND MAKING BETTER USE OF FOREIGN AID, IF FINAL APPROVAL AND LEGITIMACY WERE GIVEN TO THE POLICY PAPER PREPARED LAST JUNE BY THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL (AMONG OTHER THINGS THIS WOULD RAISE THE MINIMUM MARRAGE AGE AND LIBERALIZE PROCEDURES FOR ABORTION), I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE PAPER HAD BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BUT STILL LACKED OFFICIAL STATUS.

2. ZIA REITERATED HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR AN EFFECTIVE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, NOTING AS HE HAS IN THE PAST THAT QUICK REDUCTION OF THE GROWTH RATE FROM THREE TO TWO PERCENT WOULD STILL MEAN 120 MILLION BANGLADESHIS BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY. THIS, HE SAID, WAS INTOLERABLE, AND EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAD TO BE DONE TO TRY TO HOLD THE LEVEL TO 100 MILLION. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE POINTS I RAISED AND SUGGESTED A JOINT MEETING OF HIS EXPERTS AND OURS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I AGREED AND WILL PURSUE THIS ON THE RETURN OF USAID DIRECTOR TONER WHO WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE LATEST THINKING IN WASHINGTON.

3. ASKED BY ZIA ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR U.S. PL-480 FOODGRAINS, I SAID WE WERE AWAITING NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS BUT EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PROCEED SOON. I NOTED THAT WE ARE WATCHING WITH INTEREST BANGLADESH'S PRESENT DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT DRIVE (THE FOOD MINISTRY HAS PROCURED ONLY ABOUT 90,000 TONS OF A 500,000 TON TARGET, WHERE AS LAST YEAR ABOUT 300,000 TONS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY THIS TIME FO THE YEAR). CONSIDERING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERIENCE LAST YEAR, I SAID WE WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT OVERLOADING BANGLADESH'S STORAGE CAPACITY. I THEREFORE DID NOT BELIEVE WE WOULD AT THIS TIME BE ABLE TO MEET BANGLADESH'S REQUEST FOR 500,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS. MORE LIKELY WE WOULD WANT TO PHASE IN A SMALLER AMMOUNT, PERHAPS 200,000 TONS, AND SEE HOW THINGS WENT BEFORE COMMITTING MORE. I ASSURED ZIA THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE, WE WOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND INCREASE OUR ALLOCATIONS IF SHORTAGES THREATENED. ZIA SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THIS WITHOUT EXPERT ADVICE FROM HIS STAFF BUT ANTED US TO BEAR IN MIND THAT SALE OF FOREIGN PROCURED FOODGRAINS THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT RATION SYSTEM WAS A USEFUL SOURCE OF BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR THE BDG.

4. I DID NOT PUSH ZIA FURTHER ON THIS IN OUR FIRST DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE FOOD PROBLEM AND IN THE ABSENCE OF NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS ON OUR PL-480 PROGRAM. THIS

LEDAY IS BECOMING EMBARRASSING, AND I HOPE WE RECEIVE  
INSTRUCTIONS QUICKLY.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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